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# Columbia Missourian

71st Year — No. 52

Good Morning! It's Sunday, November 12, 1978

5 Sections — 58 Pages — 35 Cents

## Inside today

### The forest primeval

Schnabel Woods, 80 acres of untouched wilderness in Boone County, was old before your great-great-grandfather's time. It's filled with rare wildflowers, ancient sugar maples and Indian artifacts. Take a walk into the forest primeval with today's Vibeations.



### Different candidates, different campaigns

Last Tuesday was a long day for quite a few Boone Countians, particularly Harold Reisch and Ralph Gates, two opposing candidates for the 110th District seat in the Missouri General Assembly. Read about the contrasting styles these two men displayed on Election Day on Page 6A.



### No railroad ties ahead for bikers

While other states are converting obsolete railroad lines into biking and hiking paths, Missouri, with miles and miles of unused track, is hanging back. Read the state's reasons for nixing a rails-to-trails program on today's Background Page, Page 5B.

### In town today

3 p.m. Ad Hoc Singers and Carmeline Consort of Early Instruments concert, Memorial Union Green Chapel.  
7 p.m. Rev. Ralph Abernathy speech, Second Baptist Church.

### Monday

8 p.m. Earth Multi-Media Series, Columbians to Save Stephens Park presentation, 100 Hitt St.

## Racial violence denied by report

By Phillis Knight Dent and Richard Underwood  
Missourian staff writers

A Columbia Missourian investigation of racially motivated violence on campus contradicts recent allegations of increasing violence against blacks by whites.

These findings agree with a recently released University police report, submitted Friday to University curators by University Police Chief Ron Mason, which showed no evidence of white students assaulting black students or vice-versa.

Yet the consensus among University and community police, administration officials, and students is that covert racism on campus is prevalent.

Mason said that of the 10 whites who reported being assaulted by blacks, their attackers were non-students.

"We don't see any kind of racial implications in regards to assaults on this campus," Mason said Saturday morning.

Personal crimes of violence on campus — including rape, robbery and assault — comprised 3 percent of all offenses from 1975-1978, although the total of offenses reached a peak in 1976 and then dropped off, the report said.

The pattern and number of crimes in relation to University's population is "assumed" to be similar in the Columbia community at large, Mason said. But he made no attempt to include citywide statistics in his report.

Although there are instances where opposing parties may be of different races, Columbia Police Maj. Jim Smith and Sgt. John Kelly, a 29-year black veteran of the Columbia police force, agreed that racially motivated attacks do not occur in Columbia.

For an incident to be characterized as racially motivated, there has to be an issue pitting whites against blacks, Kelly said. He sees no such issue in Columbia.

After media reports that a Sept. 25 assault on a black student was racially motivated, Smith said a review of city assault files showed no evidence that such attacks were common.

St. Louis Curator Marian Oldham requested the University report after University Chancellor Barbara Uehling received

reports of attacks on black and female students in September.

Both student and faculty pressure upon the chancellor to respond to the reports increased after black student Keith Givens was treated for injuries he sustained when attacked by four whites on Sept. 25. The attack occurred five blocks north of the University campus.

Oldham said she had no comment on Mason's report.

Other University officials appear to feel that racism is shown in less obvious forms than physical attacks, such as racial slurs.

James Irvin, vice chancellor of student affairs, said there is no "prevalent racist at-

(See M.U.'S, Page 16A)

## Friends gather bail after fan lands in jail

By Cathy Reiman  
Missourian staff writer

Perhaps bored by the lopsided score of Saturday's Missouri-Kansas football game, a fan apparently decided to create his own halftime entertainment.

Several hours later, Thomas Kanatzar, assistant superintendent of schools for the Columbia School District, says, was somewhat less than entertained when they had to bail him out of the Boone County Jail after he was charged with assaulting four members of the Kansas band.

Donning a gold Missouri T-shirt, Kanatzar, a 23-year-old firefighter from Kansas City, Kan., had taken to the turf during the Kansas halftime show, situating himself among the band.

Once there, he began "showing off" with a few marching steps of his own, according to Maj. Mick Deaver of the University Police. Kanatzar was intoxicated, Deaver said.

The gyrations, however, turned into

(See NUMEROUS, Page 16A)



Michael Bryant



David Haygens

Thomas Kanatzar, Kansas City, Kan., runs through the Kansas University marching band during halftime of the

Missouri-Kansas game Saturday. At left, University Police escort Kanatzar off the field after the incident.

## Schools face crisis as enrollment declines

By David Kraus  
Missourian staff writer

The Ritenour School District in St. Louis County has an enrollment history similar to that of many districts throughout Missouri.

Beginning in the mid-1950s, enrollment in the district grew tremendously as the "baby boom" swept across the country. Reaching a

### Insight

peak of more than 14,000 students in the early 1970s, enrollment then began to slide dramatically.

Fewer students meant less state aid. And less state aid meant either higher local taxes or lower spending.

Ritenour, along with many other school districts, found itself faced with such a choice, and decided to lower spending by consolidating students into fewer buildings and closing unused buildings.

## City not threatened by problem

The problem of a drastic enrollment decline forcing the closing of schools, faced by districts like Ritenour, will not exist in Columbia, Henry Fisher, assistant superintendent of schools for the Columbia School District, says.

The problem has been studied locally, Fisher says, and the schools here expect no major changes in the next 10 years.

"We anticipate some decline (in enrollment) until the early 1980s," he says. "At that time, it will begin to increase."

Educators say the key to closing school buildings is planning. Such moves not only can provide savings but can enable districts to use existing facilities more efficiently.

And it appears many school district officials in Missouri may be faced with

He says Columbia is still a growing city and that the decline in the birth rate will be offset somewhat by the number of people moving into the area.

Enrollment in the city's public schools has already begun to show a small decline. The enrollment reached its peak in 1976-1977 when 11,483 students were enrolled, but that total has fallen off to 11,121 — a decline of about 3 percent.

Columbia felt the effects of the baby boom as strongly as any other city.

making such moves. According to the state Department of Education, total enrollment in Missouri public schools, which was 1,038,188 during the 1977-1978 school year, is expected to fall to about 960,000 this year and to continue downward into the 1980s. Projected

Enrollment in public schools more than tripled during the 1950s and the 1960s, rising from about 3,200 in 1950-1951 to almost 10,900 in 1970-1971. A gradual increase continued until 1976-1977.

The recent small decline in enrollment, however, doesn't worry Fisher.

"For the most part, this school district had too few facilities," he says. "A period of decline for several years may enable us to better use some of the facilities."

statewide enrollment for 1982 is only 900,314.

A decline in enrollment, however, doesn't automatically mean a savings for a school district, Henry Fisher says. Fisher, an assistant superintendent of schools in the Columbia School District,

says there is no direct relationship between enrollment declines and cost reductions.

Fisher says that school districts "by far" spend the most money on personnel and that a significant decline in enrollment (between 25 percent and 50 percent) over a certain number of years is needed to reduce the number of personnel.

"If you have 28 students in a class, you need a teacher and if you have 22 students in a class, you still need a teacher," he says.

"Also, it takes a certain number of support personnel to run a building whether there are 300, 400 or 500 children in the school."

And so, Fisher says, the point at which a school district reduces personnel is not the same as when the enrollment declines. Therefore, declining enrollment may well force the closing of schools to meet a budget.

In Ritenour, the situation was studied

(See SCHOOL, Page 15A)

## How a special tax district helped Kirkwood

By Tim Bryant  
Missourian staff writer

Kirkwood druggist Dick Zelner is much more likely to whistle while he works today than four years ago. Until recently, business at his downtown Kirkwood drugstore was tapering off.

"My business was on the decline. In fact, the whole area was going down the tubes. I was very much concerned with the trend," Zelner said.

When he goes to work now, however, Zelner slips the store's key into the front door of a Kirkwood Drug that is doing 15 percent more business now than one year ago. Business has made a turnaround, not only for Zelner's drugstore but for the rest of downtown Kirkwood in suburban St. Louis as well.

Businessmen and city officials credit the transformation to the Kirkwood Special Downtown Improvement District created in 1975 to get the area back on its feet.

An effort presently is underway to establish a similar downtown improvement district in Columbia. Former Mayor Bob Pugh and an ad hoc committee of business people are trying to drum up support for the district. If established, the district would encompass a 35-block area around the downtown business core.

The Kirkwood district was established under a state statute enacted in 1972 that gives municipalities the authority to allow specific property owners and holders of business licenses to tax themselves for

their exclusive benefit.

Kirkwood businessmen have taxed themselves to pay for renovation of two blocks of buildings in the center of the business district near Zelner's drugstore. The effort paid off last year, City Administrator Arlan Dohrmann said, when a large department store and a well-known St. Louis area sporting goods store set up outlets in the renovated buildings.

City sales tax revenues have increased 14 percent and the occupancy rate of business buildings rose from 80 to 100 percent, Dohrmann said.

"The added sales tax collection is bringing in \$80,000 more per year and that's a big shot in the arm. Our improvement district has played a big

part in the revitalization of our downtown."

With a \$37,000 budget, the improvement district this year developed new parking areas, put up street and parking signs specially designed for downtown Kirkwood and purchased new Christmas street decorations.

Dohrmann said such improvements prompted the Kirkwood City Council to contribute \$110,000 in community development and revenue sharing funds for a downtown park, additional parking areas with connecting walkways to shopping areas, an outdoor farmers' market and planting of trees along downtown sidewalks.

The state law allowing formation of downtown improvement districts is designed to give downtowns a fighting

chance against outlying shopping centers, said its sponsor, Charles Valier, St. Louis attorney and former state representative.

"When you're part of a shopping center, you're subject to a master lease and the shopping center tenants act as a group. This law allows downtown businessmen to get together to act more like a shopping center. The ultimate objective is to allow downtowns to compete," Valier said.

Under the law, any Missouri city can establish a downtown improvement district in the following manner:

Upon receipt of a petition from even one businessman proposing boundaries and a tax levy (up to 85 cents of each

(See LAW, Page 15A)

## Hotel falls, trapping workers

JOPLIN (UPI) — Emergency rescue crews using bulldozers and heavy construction cranes Saturday dug through the remains of a historic downtown hotel which collapsed on demolition workers as they prepared it for destruction.

Authorities said at least three, and possibly as many as six, men were trapped in the basement of the Connor Hotel, but there was little hope they would be found alive beneath the rubble.

"We just need to get eight floors of rubble off before we can get to them," said fire department engineer Bruce Johnson. "There is eight floors of it and a penthouse in the basement. The pile of rubble is approximately 20 to 30 feet tall (600 to 900 centimeters)."

Using special listening devices, emergency crews attempted to contact the workers trapped in the basement of the structure while rescuers worked feverishly to remove the steel beams and shattered concrete covering the men.

Police said no audio contact had been made with the trapped workers from Dyke Explosive Co. of Tulsa, Okla.

Authorities originally had feared at least five workers, who were preparing for Sunday's demolition of the Connor Hotel, were buried when the southeast section of the nine-story building collapsed.

The search party included members of the National Guard, as well as local and state authorities.